

Current Listing of Claims

1-18. (Cancelled).

19. (New; previously presented in parent application). A method of removing an implanted lead from the body of a patient, comprising:

providing a lead removal apparatus comprising an elongated proximal portion capable of having first and second configurations, the first configuration having a compacted, pre-formed shape being constrainable into the second configuration and the second configuration being sufficiently straight in shape to permit passage thereover by a medical device having a passageway extending therethrough, a distal portion including an expandable portion adapted to engage said implanted lead, and an actuator portion adapted to expand the expandable portion to effect engaging of said implanted lead;

introducing the distal portion of said lead removal apparatus into a vessel of said body;

inserting the distal portion of said lead removal apparatus into said implanted lead;

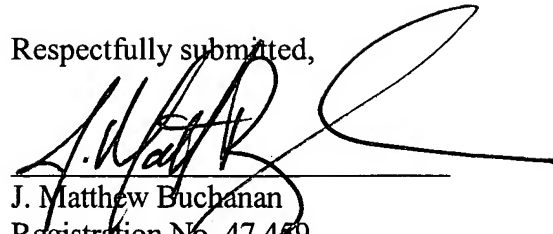
activating the actuator portion such that the expandable portion expands and engages said implanted lead;

grasping the elongated proximal portion; and

applying traction to the proximal portion and retracting said implanted lead from said body.

20. (New; previously presented in parent application). The method of claim 28, further comprising advancing a cannula over the elongate proximal portion and into the vessel to separate tissue from said implanted lead.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Matthew Buchanan", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

J. Matthew Buchanan
Registration No. 47,459
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200